

CLIMATE ADAPTATION FORUM

*Environmental Business Council of New England, Inc.
Sustainable Solutions Lab at the University of Massachusetts Boston*

Climate Adaptation Communication Decoding Data and Risk for All

Friday, March 6, 2026

Hosted by:

Foley Hoag LLP
155 Seaport Boulevard
Boston MA 02210

and

Streaming virtually on Zoom

Sponsors of the 2025-2026 Climate Adaptation Forum programming:



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AGENDA

- 9:00 a.m. **Registration & Networking**
- 9:30 a.m. **Welcome**
- Kelly Knee, Forum Organizer
Executive Director, Ocean Science, Tetra Tech
- Welcome from Host & Access Sponsor**
- Aaron Lang, Partner, Foley Hoag LLP
- Welcome from Sponsor of the Virtual Presentation**
- Cheri Ruane, Chief Development Officer, Weston & Sampson
- Program Introduction**
- Indrani Ghosh, PhD, Forum Co-Chair; Vice President, Resiliency Practice Leader
Weston & Sampson
- 9:40 a.m. **Keynote Presentation – *presenting virtually***
- Katharine Hayhoe, Climate Scientist
- 10:20 a.m. **Regional Perspective**
- Emma Gildesgame, Climate Adaptation Director, Massachusetts
The Nature Conservancy
- 10:40 a.m. **Break**
- 11:00 a.m. **Municipal Perspective**
- Anne Coglianese, Chief Resilience Officer, City of Jacksonville, Florida
 - Delaney Morris-Landry, Senior Climate & Coastal Resilience
Infrastructure Delivery Project Manager, City of Boston Planning
Previous Resiliency Manager, City of Tacoma, WA
- 11:40 am. **Small Business Perspective – Ready, Set, Rhody**
- Silvana Mercado, Resiliency Manager, Rhode Island Commerce
 - Alex Maxwell, PhD, CCP, Senior Environmental Planner, Fuss & O’Neill
 - Abbey Dahl, Principal Planner, Division of Statewide Planning
State of Rhode Island
- 12:00 p.m. **Moderated Q&A**
- Co-Moderators:**
- Indrani Ghosh, Weston & Sampson
 - Kyle Johnson, Forum Co-Chair; Regional Lead, Climate Resiliency, Kleinfelder
- Panelists:**
- Anne Coglianese, City of Jacksonville
 - Emma Gildesgame, TNC
 - Silvana Mercado, RI Commerce
 - Delaney Morris-Landry, City of Boston Planning

12:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

Closing Remarks

- Gabriela Boscio Santos, Forum Organizer
Associate Director, Sustainable Solutions Lab
University of Massachusetts Boston

FORUM CO-CHAIRS

Indrani Ghosh, PhD, Vice President, Resiliency Practice Leader

Weston & Sampson

55 Walkers Brook Drive, Suite 100, Reading, MA 01867

781-420-1817 | ghosh.indrani@wseinc.com

Indrani has nearly 20 years of experience as a water resources engineer and as technical lead in climate change resiliency projects, specializing in leading interdisciplinary teams and stakeholders through risk based prioritization of adaptation solutions. She has industry-leading experience in translating climate change projections to engineering design criteria for new and existing infrastructure and modeling climate impacts for the purposes of vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning for many projects in the Northeast. She has worked with numerous municipalities and public agencies to model their exposure to coastal and stormwater flooding, including stormwater flood modeling in complex urban environments, using the best available and most appropriate sea level rise, storm surge, and rainfall projections. She has extensive experience integrating climate projections in hydrologic/hydraulic models of urban storm and sanitary sewer systems. Indrani is frequently invited to be part of panel discussions on climate risk and resiliency at New England universities, and has won national awards for her contributions to the engineering profession.

Kyle Johnson, Regional Lead, Climate Resiliency

Kleinfelder

One Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108

773-614-3449 | KJohnson@kleinfelder.com

Kyle is the Regional Lead for Kleinfelder's climate resiliency practice group in New England, based out of Boston, MA. Mr. Johnson is a technical expert in climate change vulnerability and adaptation planning, climate-resilient infrastructure design, coastal storm hardening, living shorelines and other nature-based solutions. He leads a dedicated group of technical professionals tackling of water and transportation resiliency projects that address inland and coastal flooding, sea level rise, and extreme heat hazards. Mr. Johnson has played a lead role on several regional projects addressing flood mitigation, mobility, and equity-based planning, including 'resilient routes' network and prioritization analyses for rural and coastal regions in multiple states.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Katharine Hayhoe, Climate Scientist

<https://www.katharinehayhoe.com/>

Katharine Hayhoe is an atmospheric scientist who studies how climate change impacts us and how we can effectively respond. She is globally recognized as a United Nations Champion of the Earth and an Oxfam Sister of the Planet, and has been named to TIME's 100 Most Influential People, Foreign Policy's 100 Leading Global Thinkers, and FORTUNE's World's Greatest Leaders.

Katharine is known for her ability to translate complex climate issues into accessible public discourse. She publishes a weekly [Talking Climate](#) newsletter, hosted the PBS Digital Series, [Global Weirding](#), and writes for broad range of outlets, from TIME to Good Housekeeping. Her [TED talk](#), "The most important thing you can do to fight climate change: talk about it" has more than 4 million views and her [most recent book](#) is "Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World."

Currently, she is the Chief Scientist for The Nature Conservancy and holds the positions of Horn Distinguished Professor and the Political Science Endowed Professor in Public Policy and Public Law at Texas Tech University. Katharine earned her B.Sc. in Physics from the University of Toronto and her M.S. and Ph.D. in Atmospheric Science from the University of Illinois. She is a fellow of the American Geophysical Union, the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society, and the American Scientific Affiliation, and serves on advisory boards for organizations such as Netflix, UBS, and the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. In recognition of her contributions to science communication and engagement, she has received a number of awards and four honorary doctorates.

SPEAKERS

Anne Coglianese, Chief Resilience Officer

City of Jacksonville, Florida

ACoglianese@coj.net

Anne Coglianese is the Chief Resilience Officer for the City of Jacksonville. In this capacity, Anne leads the development of resilience initiatives to ensure Jacksonville can adapt and thrive in the face of acute shocks and chronic stresses. Prior to joining the City of Jacksonville, Anne served as the Coastal Resilience Manager for the City of New Orleans where she implemented nature-based solutions to sea-level rise and coastal land loss. Anne's previous experience also includes serving at the White House Council on Environmental Quality, where she participated in the development of climate adaptation and resilience policies to meet the Obama Administration's resilience goals.

Abbey Dahl, Principal Planner, Division of Statewide Planning

Department of Administration, State of Rhode Island

235 Promenade Street, Suite 230, Providence, RI 02908

401-222-1233 | abbey.dahl@doa.ri.gov

Abbey Dahl is a Principal Planner with the State of Rhode Island Division of Statewide Planning, where she serves on the Community Connection and Plan Implementation team. Her work spans a range of statewide initiatives, including development of the Model Ordinance Library, review of municipal comprehensive plans, and coordination of active transportation technical assistance programs. She also supports resilience-focused technical assistance programs, including Resilient Cumberland, which advances climate resilience through updated land use policies and regulatory strategies across Rhode Island.

Abbey earned her Master of Public Policy and a Certificate in Metropolitan Planning from DePaul University in Chicago. During her graduate studies, she concentrated on affordable housing and equitable housing policy

implementation in the Chicago region. Passionate about community engagement, Abbey looks forward to continuing her work in partnership with communities throughout the state.

Emma Gildesgame, Climate Adaptation Director, Massachusetts
The Nature Conservancy
emma.gildesgame@TNC.ORG

Emma Gildesgame is Climate Adaptation Director for The Nature Conservancy in Massachusetts. She collaborates with communities and stakeholders to co-develop and implement equitable, nature-based solutions that benefit both people and nature at a pace and scale that match the urgency of climate change.

Emma is passionate about elevating and empowering communities most often impacted by climate change. She takes a holistic, people-centered approach when working with partners to secure funding and implement solutions that align with the communities needs and priorities.

Emma holds a Master of Environmental Management in water resources science and management from the Yale School of the Environment and a B.A. in environmental science from Colby College. Her graduate work focused on urban coastal climate resilience planning.

Before joining TNC in 2021, Emma focused on water quality planning and restoration, nutrient pollution and estuaries projects for New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC). She's also worked on wetland restoration, climate communication, watershed and marine education and outdoor recreation initiatives with various organizations across New England, Colorado and California.

When not at home in Greater Boston, Emma is likely exploring western Maine or the White Mountains. Whether wandering in the woods and mountains, kayaking, skiing or baking, Emma is always connected to nature.

Alex Maxwell, PhD, CCP, Senior Environmental Planner
Fuss & O'Neill
115 Broad St, 6th floor, Boston, MA 02210
617-379-5876 | alex.maxwell@fando.com

Alex Maxwell helps communities navigate the complexities of our changing environments and plan for more resilient futures by applying rigorous data analysis, context-specific planning strategies, and human-scale design principles. With a background in environmental science, engineering, and urban morphology, he brings a practical and research-backed perspective to environmental planning. Alex seeks to identify and apply underlying patterns and transformational processes that make places more livable and resilient for years to come.

With over 13 years of experience, Alex serves as a project manager and senior environmental planner at Fuss & O'Neill, leading the Natural Resources and Environmental Planning team. Previously, Alex served as a Senior Manager of Climate Programs at Second Nature, taught courses in civil and environmental engineering as an Assistant Professor at Gonzaga University, and worked as an environmental planning consultant on several projects related to local climate action planning and sustainable urban design. Prior to joining the faculty at Gonzaga, he was a Fulbright-University of Strathclyde Research Scholar with the Urban Design Studies Unit in Glasgow, Scotland and worked for the Urban Planning and Design Branch of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in Nairobi, Kenya.

Silvana Mercado, Resiliency Manager
Rhode Island Commerce Corporation
315 Iron Horse Way, Suite 101, Providence, RI 02908
401-278-9106 | Silvana.Mercado@commerceri.com

Silvana Mercado is the Resiliency Manager at Rhode Island Commerce, the state's economic development agency. In this role, she leads initiatives that strengthen business resilience, foster innovation, and address climate challenges across Rhode Island. Her work includes advancing climate adaptation strategies through stakeholder engagement, cross-sector collaboration, project implementation, and strategic communications to support businesses and communities statewide.

Previously, Silvana served as a Policy and Budget Analyst for the Rhode Island Executive Office of Commerce, where she managed federal grant programs and conducted fiscal policy analysis. She earned her BA in Economics and Global Studies from Providence College. During her undergraduate studies, she participated in international service-learning experiences centered on sustainable economic development and supported nonprofit initiatives dedicated to advancing social and economic justice.

Delaney Morris-Landry, Senior Climate & Coastal Resilience Infrastructure Delivery Project Manager City of Boston Planning

1 City Hall Square, 9th Floor, Boston, MA 02201

delaney.morrislandry@boston.gov

Delaney Morris-Landry (she/her) works at the intersection of climate and culture. With over 10 years experience in the cultural arts field and in the climate and urban planning realm she has cultivated a diverse set of skills and a network that spans across the globe. Currently she works as a Senior Climate & Coastal Resilience Infrastructure Delivery Project Manager at the City of Boston's Planning Department. In this role she advances the Climate Ready Boston initiative from planning to implementation by completing the design, permitting, and construction of coastal resilience solutions for future sea level rise and storm surge events in the City of Boston.

Delaney has worked with a range of organizations including the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT); Rockaways Initiative for Sustainability & Equity (RISE); The Municipal Art Society of New York (MAS NYC); the City of Everett, and the City of Tacoma, Washington; Fundación Tlaloc in Mexico; and countless other organizations across the globe. She has been a featured speaker at many conferences including a NATO hosted Resilience conference, the Sandy +10 Conference in NYC hosted by Columbia University, and most recently the NYWEA 96th Annual Technical Conference.

She holds a Master of Science in Sustainable Environmental Systems and an MS in Urban Placemaking & Management from Pratt Institute. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Live & Performing Arts Management from Columbia College Chicago, a certificate in Emergency Management & Disaster Recovery from UC-Irvine, and she is a certified WEDG Associate. Her work has also been nominated for three Daytime Emmy Awards.